

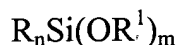
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims ~~1-8~~ without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (New) A process for surface pretreatment, comprising the following steps in the order shown:
- (a) providing a clean metal surface which is aluminum or an aluminum alloy;
 - (b) applying a composition comprising an organosilane to the clean metal surface to form a coated surface; and
 - (c) exposing the coated surface to a laser which produces an elevated temperature on the coated surface.

10. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the organosilane has the general formula I:



wherein

R is a reactive or non-reactive organic group;

R¹ is alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, or acyl;

n is 1 or 2; and

m is 2 or 3, provided that n + m = 4.

11. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the composition is a solution containing from 1 to 10 % by weight of the organosilane in water and/or an organic solvent.
12. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the composition further comprises a carboxylic acid and/or a nonionic wetting agent.
13. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the metal surface is cleaned by degreasing with an organic solvent.
14. (New) A process according to claim 9, wherein the laser is a non-focussed laser.
15. (New) A process according to claim 10, wherein R is alkyl, phenyl, vinyl, acryloalkyl, glycidylalkyl, wherein alkyl means C₁-C₄ alkyl.

16. (New) A process according to claim 10, wherein R¹ is C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₈ alkoxyalkyl, or C₂-C₄ acyl
17. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein R¹ is methyl, ethyl, methoxyethyl, or acetoxy.
18. (New) A process according to claim 16, further comprising the step of bonding the coated and lased metal surface to a second surface with an adhesive.

[illegible]